placed in independent form as claim 13, and claim 17 had been placed in independent form as claim 30, while claim 20 has been placed in independent form as claim 32.

In view of these remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance and the Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: ///8/02

Timothy N. Trop, Reg No. 28,994

TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C. 8554 Katy Freeway, Ste. 100

Houston, TX 77024 713/468-8880 [Phone] 713/468-8883 [Fax]